

Amendments to the Claims

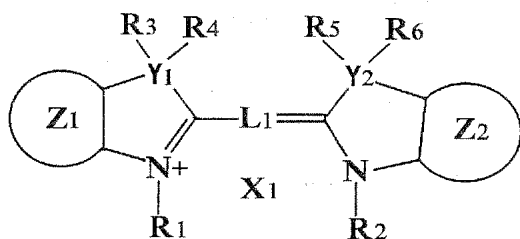
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium having a recording layer to which information is recorded by using a laser with an oscillation wavelength of about 405 nm:

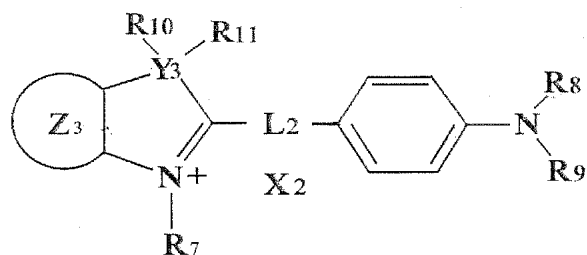
in said recording layer consisting essentially of a light-resistant improver and an organic dye compound, as a light absorbent, which shows wherein said recording layer exhibits an absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than the oscillation wavelength of said laser but absorbs said laser in a level sufficient to record information in said recording layer,  
said optical recording medium having a recording capacity of over 15 GB per one side when formed into a disk 12 cm in diameter, by forming minute pits with a pit/groove width of below 1  $\mu$ m/pit at a track pitch of below 1  $\mu$ m, said organic dye compound having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of longer than 450 nm, absorbing a light with a wavelength of 390-450 nm, and being represented by any one of Formulae 1 to 3;

Formula 1:



wherein in Formula 1,  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings;  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms;  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups;  $R_3$  to  $R_6$  independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of  $R_3$  to  $R_6$  does not exist;  $L_1$  denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and  $X_1$  denotes a compatible counter-ion;

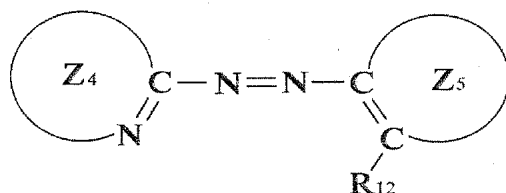
Formula 2:



wherein in Formula 2,  $Z_3$  denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring;  $Y_3$  denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom;  $R_7$  to  $R_9$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic

hydrocarbon groups; R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y<sub>3</sub> is a hetero atom, R<sub>10</sub> and/or R<sub>11</sub> do not exist; L<sub>2</sub> denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and X<sub>2</sub> denotes a compatible counter-ion; and

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3, Z<sub>4</sub> and Z<sub>5</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and R<sub>12</sub> denotes an acid base.

Claims 2 - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The optical recording medium of claim 1, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

8. (Currently Amended) In an optical recording method to record information by using an optical recording medium comprising a substrate and a recording layer, said recording layer consisting essentially of a light-resistant

improver and an organic dye compound as a light absorbent and  
being provided on said substrate, by using an organic dye  
compound and irradiating said recording layer with a writing  
light to act on said organic dye compound to form a pit on said  
substrate, the improvement comprising

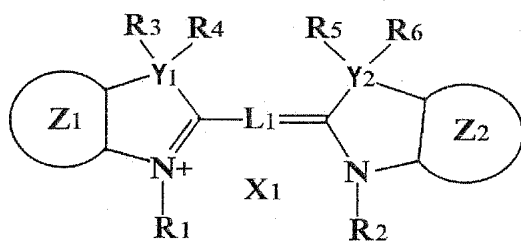
using, as a main organic dye compound for forming  
pits, an organic dye compound which has an absorption maximum  
with a wavelength less than 850 nm and substantially absorbs a  
writing light with a wavelength shorter than the absorption  
maximum of said organic dye compound, and

irradiating a recording layer on a substrate with the  
writing light to form a pit on said substrate,

wherein said writing light has a wavelength of about  
405 nm,

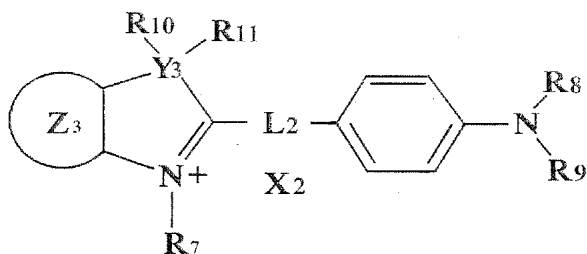
said optical recording medium having a capacity of  
over 15 GB per one side when formed into a disk 12 cm in  
diameter, by forming minute pits with a pit/groove width of  
below 1  $\mu\text{m}$ /pit at a track pitch of below 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , said organic dye  
compound having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of longer  
than 450 nm, absorbing a light with a wavelength of 390-450 nm,  
and being represented by any one of Formulae 1 to 3;

Formula 1:



wherein in Formula 1,  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings;  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms;  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups;  $R_3$  to  $R_6$  independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of  $R_3$  to  $R_6$  does not exist;  $L_1$  denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and  $X_1$  denotes a compatible counter-ion;

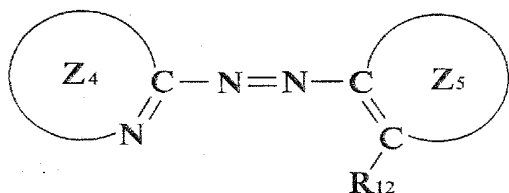
Formula 2:



wherein in Formula 2,  $Z_3$  denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring;  $Y_3$  denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom;  $R_7$  to

R<sub>9</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y<sub>3</sub> is a hetero atom, R<sub>10</sub> and/or R<sub>11</sub> do not exist; L<sub>2</sub> denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and X<sub>2</sub> denotes a compatible counter-ion;

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3, Z<sub>4</sub> and Z<sub>5</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and R<sub>12</sub> denotes an acid base.

Claims 9 - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

Claims 15 - 18. (Canceled)